

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9233

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CG

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KINSHASA 3401

1. FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA CALLED ME APRIL 17 TO ASK WHETHER I HAD ANY "RESULTS" OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP TO AFRICA TO SHARE WITH THE GOZ. HE WENT ON TO REVIEW AT SOME LENGTH ZAIRE'S WELL-KNOWN WORRIES ABOUT SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, CITING REPORTS OF NEW SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ANGOLA, THE ARRIVAL OF CUBANS IN BURUNDI, THE CUBAN'S FAILURE TO WITHDRAW FROM ETHIOPIA AFTER SECURING THE OGADEN ETC., ETC. HE URGED THAT WE SUPPORT OUR AFRICAN FRIENDS BY TAKING CONCRETE ACTIONS, IN ADDITION TO MERE WARNINGS, TO COUNTER THE SOVIET-CUBAN THREAT. IN THIS RESPECT HE ASKED HOW AFRICAN MODERATES COULD BE EXPECTED TO GO ON SUPPORTING US ON SUCH ISSUES AS PUERTO RICO (HE MENTIONED HAVING RECENTLY RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE EMBASSY ON THIS SUBJECT) IF WE CONTINUED TO BE UNRESPONSIVE TO THEIR OWN LEGITIMATE CONCERNS.

2. COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR ACTION. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT UMBA'S INITIATIVE WAS MADE ON MOBUTU'S INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT IT REFLECTS THE LATTER'S CONTINUING ANXIETIES AND UNHAPPINESS WITH
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WHAT HE VIEWS AS OUR INEFFECTIVE POLICIES FOR DEALING WITH
SOVIET/CUBAN STRATEGY IN AFRICA. MORE SPECIFICALLY, I BELIEVE MOBUTU

IS SEARCHING FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT, IF ANY, RESPONSE
PRESIDENT CARTER MADE IN MONROVIA TO TOLBERT'S REQUEST, MADE
ON BEHALF OF MOBUTU TO DISCUSS ZAIRE'S SECURITY PROBLEMS.
IN REFTEL I HAVE ALREADY REQUESTED READ-OUT ON THIS MATTER FOR

POSSIBLE USE WITH MOBUTU. UMBA'S APPEAL, MADE IN RATHER
IMPASSIONED TERMS AND LACED WITH THE NOT-SO-SUBTLE REFERENCE
TO GOZ SUPPORT ON NON-ALIGNED ISSUES, UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE
OF GETTING BACK TO MOBUTU WITH SOMETHING. IF MATTER
WAS RAISED IN MONROVIA, I SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL MOBUTU
AND CONVEY GENERAL SUBSTANCE OF EXCHANGE. IF IT WAS NOT, I
RECOMMEND A BRIEF PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO
MOBUTU REGRETTING THAT TIME HAD PREVENTED HIS DISCUSSING THIS
POINT WITH TOLBETT BUT ASSURING MOBUTU THAT WE SHARE HIS
CONCERNS AND WILL GO ON DOING WHAT WE CAN, AS WE HAVE DONE IN
THE PAST, TO SUPPORT ZAIRE'S SECURITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.
AS ALSO SUGGESTED REFTTEL, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONVEY TO
MOBUTU, EITHER IN LETTER DISCUSSED ABOVE OR ORALLY HERE, ANY
OTHER POINTS EMERGING FROM THE PRESIDENT'S AFRICAN VISIT
WHICH WOULD BE RELEVANT TO ZAIRE'S INTERESTS. PLEASE
ADVISE.
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